

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing distributed printing comprising:

a plurality of printers;

5 at least one print spooler for managing printing operations of the plurality of printers;

and

at least one relational database coupled with the print spooler, the relational database including a plurality of tables, the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects.

10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes the plurality of printers.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of printers.

15 4. The system of claim 2 wherein a user of the system has access to each of the plurality of printers.

5. The system of claim 2 wherein the print spooler and relational database are
20 configured so that continuous printing can be performed using the plurality of printers.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of print jobs.

7. The system of claim 2 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of print jobs.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of users.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the graphical user interface is updated using a query which retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query.

12. A system for providing distributed printing comprising:
a plurality of printers;
at least one print spooler for managing printing operations; and
at least one relational database coupled with the print spooler, the relational database including a plurality of tables for storing a plurality of print objects, the plurality of tables includes a printer table for the plurality of printers, a jobs table for a plurality of print jobs, an accounts table for a plurality of users, and a history table for a plurality of print events

and wherein the plurality of objects includes the plurality of printers, the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of users, and the plurality of print events, the plurality of printers, the plurality of print jobs, the plurality of users.

5 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the plurality of tables includes a history table and the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

 14. The system of claim 12 further comprising a network interface layer for connecting the at least one print spooler with the at least one relational database.

10 15. A method for performing distributed printing comprising:
 (a) using at least one print spooler to access at least one relational database including a plurality of tables to schedule at least one print job, the plurality of tables storing a plurality of print objects including a plurality of printers; and

15 (b) printing the at least one print job to at least one of the plurality of printers.

 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of print objects includes a plurality of attributes for the plurality of printers and a plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job, and wherein the accessing step (a) further includes:

20 (a1) matching a portion of the plurality attributes of the at least one of the plurality of printers to the plurality of job attributes for the at least one print job.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the accessing step (a) is performed using a query provided by the at least one print spooler to the relational database.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the plurality of objects includes a plurality of print events.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the print spooler further includes a graphical user interface capable of displaying a status of each of a portion of the plurality of objects.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
(c) periodically updating the graphical user interface using a query that retrieves only the status for each of a second portion of the plurality of objects that was updated after a previous query.